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News Release

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, Donald W. Thompson, Jr., Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Richmond Field Division, and Gerald Massengill, Superintendent of the Virginia State Police, announced that Joseph Willis Lee, III, of Richmond, Virginia, pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor charges of unauthorized publication of a wire communication, and was sentenced to one year of supervised probation and a \$1000 fine on each count.

Lee was the former campaign manager for a successful Democratic candidate for the Virginia House of Delegates. On March 20 and 21, 2002, a Democratic official sent out an announcement by e-mail and fax to "Democratic General Assembly Members." It listed a dial-in telephone number and a participation code, which allowed access to a conference call involving members of the Joint Democratic Caucus. Lee received the e-mails regarding the in-person meeting and conference call, but was not an invited participant in the conference calls.

On March 22, 2002, Lee passed the telephone number and access code to Jane Doe, another former Democratic party activist, with instructions that she send the telephone number and access code to her high ranking friends in the Republican Party of Virginia. On March 22, 2002, pursuant to Lee's instructions, Jane Doe passed on the telephone number and participation code to John Doe. That afternoon, John Doe secretly listened to the Democratic conference call for approximately two and one-half hours, and later reported the contents of the call to others.

The case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Virginia State Police, and prosecuted by David T. Maguire, Assistant United States Attorney and Stephen W. Miller, Managing Assistant United States Attorney.